

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
INSE-00 NSAE-00 SAB-02 L-03 H-01 PPT-01 TRSE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05
DHA-02 SS-15 SY-05 /066 W
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R 201510Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2837

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CVIS, PN, PQ, MILI

SUBJECT: FRADULENT ENLISTMENT BY PANAMANIAN INTO U.S. ARMED FORCES

43*: A. PANAMA 4273; B. PANAMA 4944

1. AN AP WASHINGTON DATELINE STORY BY TERENCE P. HUNT ABOUT THE ILLEGAL ENLISTMENT OF PANAMANIAN USING FORGED DOCUMENTS INTO THE U.S. MARINE CORPS SURFACED IN LOCAL MEDIA JULY 18. CHANNEL 4 CARRIED A SUMMARY OF THE STORY ON THE EVENING NEWS. (COPY BEING POUCHED TO ARA/PAN.) SEMI-INDEPENDENT "LA ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" FRONT-PAGED STORY ON JULY 19. HUNT REPORTS THAT MARINE CORPS OFFICIALS LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SITUATION AFTER RECEIVING AN ANONYMOUS LETTER CLAIMING THAT TWO PANAMANIAN RECRUITS AT PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA HAD ENLISTED WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS. IN REVIEWING THE BACKGROUND OF 112 PANAMANIAN IN TRAINING AT PARRIS ISLAND, 95 SUSPICIOUS CASES WERE DISCOVERED.

2. ACCORDING TO HUNT, MARINE CORPS OFFICIALS SPECULATE THAT THE PANAMANIAN ARE ATTEMPTING TO BECOME U.S. CITIZENS BY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES. OFFICIALS ALSO STATED
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THAT "THE RECRUITS IN QUESTION WILL BE PROCESSED FOR POSSIBLE DISCHARGE...HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE NO GENERAL DECISION IN THESE CASES SINCE EACH SITUATION IS DIFFERENT." THEREFORE, CONTINUED THE OFFICIAL, "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THEM COULD BE KEPT (IN THE MARINE CORPS) BECAUSE OF THEIR BACKGROUND AND CONDUCT AS RECRUITS."

3. STORY WAS NOT CARRIED BY GOP-GUIDED ERSAPRESS, WHICH DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO AP.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE HUNT STORY MAY INCREASE ATTEMPTED CIRCUMVENTION OF U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS. THE TENOR OF THE STORY SUGGESTS THAT ILLEGAL ENLISTMENT IS AN EFFICACIOUS METHOD OF ACQUIRING U.S. CITIZENSHIP, SINCE THE ARMED FORCES' REPORTED REACTION IMPLIES LITTLE RISK OF MEANINGFUL PENALTY FOR FRAUDULENT ENLISTMENT. IN THE WAKE OF THE STORY'S APPEARANCE, CONSULATE IS ALREADY RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM PANAMANIAN ABOUT ENLISTMENT IN THE ARMED FORCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMED FORCES, DOCUMENTS, ENLISTMENT, MARINE CORPS, FRAUDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: PANAMA
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